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NEW YORK MAN INDICTED FOR PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that a federal grand jury has indicted 30-year-old Gilberto Luis Gutiérrez of Bronx, New York on two counts of passport fraud.

The indictment alleges that Gutiérrez, a Venezuelan citizen, attempted to obtain a United States passport by falsely stating on his passport application that he was born in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Gutiérrez's passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center in Portsmouth. Gutiérrez was charged with passport fraud and making a false statement to an agency of the federal government.

Gutiérrez was arraigned on these charges at the U.S. District Courthouse in Concord. A trial date was scheduled for this coming September. Gutiérrez was released on personal recognizance bail. If convicted, Gutiérrez faces a maximum prison term of five to ten years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department. Federal agents arrested Gutiérrez in New York City in connection with this indictment on June 26th. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark A. Irish.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY COLANTUONO REMINDS THE PUBLIC THAT AN INDICTMENT IS ONLY AN ALLEGATION AND NOT PROOF OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT. AS IN ALL CASES, EACH DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT.